



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL SUPPLY SYSTEMS COMMAND
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20376

*Office of the
Commander*

TELEPHONE NUMBER
COMMERCIAL
AUTOVON
IN REPLY REFER TO:

12 JUN 1986

Mrs. Robert D. Orr
Governor's Residence
4750 North Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46208

Dear Mrs. Orr:

This is in response to your letter of 22 May 1986 which requested a listing of the ex-USS INDIANA (BB 1) Presentation Silver and information concerning the loan of the set.

It is the policy of the Secretary of the Navy to display Presentation Silver in active Fleet units to the maximum extent possible. Therefore, when a ship is decommissioned or inactivated, any Presentation Silver Service which may be on board is relocated to an appropriate active Fleet ship until such time as another namesake vessel may be commissioned.

This beautiful 39-piece set, which is identified on the enclosure, was presented by the citizens of Indiana in 1896. During the many years the ex-USS INDIANA Silver Service has been in possession of the Navy, it has been proudly used and displayed on the first Battleship USS INDIANA (BB 1); the Cruiser USS INDIANAPOLIS (CA 35); the Aircraft Carriers USS TARAWA (CV 40), USS WASP (CVS 18) and currently, the USS NIMITZ (CVN 68). The ex-USS INDIANA Silver has remained through the years a definite asset to the Navy in strengthening the ties of our allied relationships, so important to all of us. Since the original inscription on Presentation Silver is never changed, this silver service will continue to reflect honor on the people of your state, irrespective of the name of the ship in which it happens to be serving.

Title 10, U.S. Code, Section 7546 authorizes the Secretary of the Navy, without expense to the United States, to return to the donor (lend or give) the silver service given by it. I would be happy to support, to the Secretary of the Navy, the Governor's request for a loan of five items or less for a period not to exceed one year.

Please advise me of your decision on this matter. In the event of any other questions, please have a member of your staff contact Mr. M. Valencia at (202) 695-6490 or (202) 697-8585.

Sincerely,

E. K. WALKER, JR.
Rear Admiral, SC, USN
Commander.

Enclosure

Copy to:
Senator R. Lugar
Mr. R. Malarkey

MRS. ROBERT D. ORR
GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE

June 23, 1986

Rear Admiral E. K. Walker, Jr.
Commander of the Naval Supply Systems Command
Washington, D. C. 20376-5000

Dear Admiral Walker:

Thank you very much for your letter of June 12, 1986, and the descriptive list of the "USS Indiana" Presentation Silver currently aboard the "USS Nimitz."

If it would not be too inconvenient for you, would you please send me pictures of the main items; such as the large bowls, candelabra, coffee pot, tea pot, and tea kettle?

I was very interested in all your procedures concerning the placement of the "USS Indiana" silver over the years, and can certainly appreciate the Navy's desire to continue to display the pieces on its ships. But, because, as you point out, the original inscription on Presentation Silver is never changed, and because the citizens of Indiana originally paid for the silver, I believe that the citizens of Indiana rightfully would expect the silver to return to and be displayed at the Governor's Residence.

I will certainly be looking forward to receiving the pictures I've requested, and further communication from you. Thank you so much for your prompt attention in this matter!

Sincerely,

Mrs. R. D. Orr

Mrs. Robert D. Orr

*copies 7-3-86 to Sen. Lugar
Sen. Tower*



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL SUPPLY SYSTEMS COMMAND
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20376

TELEPHONE NUMBER
COMMERCIAL
AUTOVON
IN REPLY REFER TO:

29 JUL 1986

Mrs. Robert D. Orr
Governor's Residence
4750 North Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN. 46208

Dear Mrs. Orr:

This is in response to your letter of June 23, 1986. As requested, pictures of the main items of the ex-USS INDIANA (BB 1) Presentation Silver are enclosed.

With respect to your request on the eventual return of the silver to the state of Indiana, I would point out that in 1922, correspondence between Theodore Roosevelt, then Acting Secretary of the Navy, and the Honorable Warren T. McCray, then Governor of the State of Indiana, confirmed that this set of "silver" became the property of the United States [Government] as soon as it was accepted from the citizens of Indiana," Our position remains unchanged today. The files of your state's executive office no doubt have all the correspondence bearing on this matter.

As stated earlier, I will be happy to support, with the approval of the Secretary of the Navy, the Governor's request for a loan of five items or less for a period not to exceed one year.

Sincerely,

E. K. WALKER, JR.
Rear Admiral, SC, USN
Commander

Wate

Enclosure

U.S.S. IND. Silver Recd 11-17-86

Det
Pls file



UNITED STATES SENATE

Copy to Josie

CHARLES N. ANDREA III
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

306 HART SENATE OFFICE BLDG.
U.S. SENATOR RICHARD G. LUGAR WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510
INDIANA (202) 224-4814

November 13, 1986 .

The Honorable John F. Lehman Jr.
Secretary of the Navy
Room 4E710
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20350

Dear John:

This past summer, Josie Orr, wife of Governor Robert D. Orr of Indiana, wrote me requesting my assistance in seeing that the Presentation Silver of the U.S.S. INDIANA, most of which is now on the USS NIMITZ, be returned to the governor's mansion in Indianapolis. Under current law (Title 10, USC 7546) the Secretary of the Navy may return such silver service sets on the request of the state's governor.

This summer an exchange of correspondence between Mrs. Orr and Rear Admiral E.K. Walker of the Naval Supply Systems Command resulted in an offer to Mrs. Orr of a temporary loan of 5 pieces of the 39 piece set.

Mrs. Orr is resolute in her desire to have the entire 39 piece silver set, which was presented by the citizens of Indiana, returned to the Governor's Mansion. John, I understand the Navy's reluctance to part with such valuable items which have served so well in the past and today serve the officers and men of the USS NIMITZ. Frankly, knowing the USS INDIANA silver still serves the active fleet is a source of some pride for me. So I make this request with some mixed emotion. However, your assistance in seeing that Mrs. Orr's request be fully met would prove to be a benefit beyond the immediate reward of seeing the Indiana Governor's mansion graced by the silver service of the USS INDIANA. I hope you can see to it that the silver service is returned.

Sincerely

RGL

USS. IND silver

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2787

February 19, 1987

ROBERT D. ORR
GOVERNOR

The Honorable John F. Lehman
Secretary of the Navy
The Pentagon, Room 4E-686
Washington, D.C. 20350-1000

Dear Mr. Secretary:


This is in response to your correspondence to Senator Richard G. Lugar dated February 6, 1987. I am officially requesting that the U.S. Navy return to the citizens of the State of Indiana on either a gift or loan basis, the silver service of the USS Indianapolis which now serves the wardroom of the USS Nimitz. Along with my fellow Hoosiers, I have taken great pride that this silver service has served the Navy so ably, particularly in the diplomatic functions of a flagship such as the Nimitz.

As you know, under U.S. law, it is within your authority to return a silver service at the request of a Governor, and for this reason I am now contacting you. My First Lady, Josie, has been in contact with your office, and there has been an exchange of correspondence regarding this issue.

As we understand it, the next step in this process is to draft an agreement between the U.S. Navy and the State of Indiana on the manner in which this 39 piece silver service will be returned for display in the Governor's residence or office. We also understand air freight and insurance charges will be our responsibility.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. May I suggest your office contact the director of our Indiana Washington Office, Mr. Ed Rissing, in the near future to complete this important agreement.

Sincerely,



ROBERT D. ORR
Governor

RDO:let

cc: The Honorable Richard G. Lugar
The Honorable Dan Quayle
Mrs. Josie W. Orr
Mr. Michael Valencia
Capt. Duvall M. Williams, Jr.